

Journal 3 Instructions

Due Date: Monday, 9/24/12

Read David Gelernter, “Unplugged: The Myth of Computers in the Classroom” p. 186 and Susan Jacoby, “When Bright Girls Decide That Math Is ‘a Waste of Time’” p. 190.

Respond to two questions for each reading (four responses total). Be sure to label each question with the author’s last name and question number (i.e., Jacoby #2).

Be sure to answer all parts of the question in your response (but don’t list the different questions out and then answer them; just answer them in prose format).

Unplugged: The Myth of Computers in the Classroom:

1. What is Gelernter’s main point about computers in the classroom? Find at least three sentence-long quotes to support your claim. Explain each quote after presenting it.
2. Respond to the following two quotes from the text. In your own words, paraphrase what the author is stating in each quote. Do you agree or disagree with each quote? Explain.

“Because to misspell is human; to have no idea of correct spelling is to be semiliterate.”

“You cannot teach a child anything unless you look him in the face.”

3. Read the short biography of Gelernter at the beginning of the article. How does his background qualify him to write on this topic? Consider all aspects of his background (you might have to look up some of the terms like “human cognition” or “parallel computing.” Comment on the year this article was published. Do you think Gelernter’s concerns are more or less prominent now? Why?

When Bright Girls Decide That Math Is “a Waste of Time”:

1. Jacoby continues to bring up the concept of “tradition” in her article. She mentions “the old expectations about women’s interests” and “the traditional belief that math and science are ‘masculine’ subjects.” What statement is she making about these “traditions”? Is it positive or negative? Provide two to three sentence-long quotes from the text to support your answer. (Don’t use the quotes from this question.)
2. Jacoby provides evidence of her claim by using facts, statistics and anecdote (someone’s personal story or situation). Summarize three of these pieces of evidence from the article in your own words. How effective is this evidence? Explain.
3. Why are girls avoiding the study of math and science? What reasons does Jacoby give for her opinion that girls should not shy away from science and math studies? What are the consequences of being math- and science-illiterate?